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MONTANA NEWSLETTER

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Chapter 272 of the Laws of 1971, An Act to Reorganize the Executive Department of Montana State Government, was signed by Governor Anderson on March 10, 1971. In accordance with the constitutional amendment adopted at the general election in November, 1970, this act provides for the allocation of the various state agencies into nineteen departments; each of the departments will come into being upon the issue of an executive order by the Governor, or on December 31, 1972, whichever occurs first.

In this act the State Library Commission and its functions are continued and transferred to the Department of Education for administrative purposes. Members of the Commission before the effective date of the chapter establishing the Department of Education serve for the remainder of their terms; the composition, method of appointment, terms of office, compensation, reimbursement, and qualifications of commission members remain as prescribed by law.

At this writing, appropriations for the programs of the State Library await action in the extraordinary session of the legislature. House Bill 614, which died at the end of the regular session, would have appropriated $150,000 from the General Fund to the library each year of the biennium, $11,600 less each year than the amount available for the current fiscal year. Appropriations under the Library Services and Construction Act are being considered in the U.S. House of Representatives; the February 11 issue of this Newsletter reported the lower appropriation recommended by the Administration.

Heads of State Library Agencies meeting in Washington late in February to consider draft regulations for the amended Library Services and Construction Act were told that one of the chief detriments to the funding of library services at all levels was what was termed a lack of visibility. It is thought, it was said, that libraries have little relevance to such current problems as drug addiction; disadvantaged children; education about the environment; the Right to Read of all sorts of groups who need special help, such as illiterate adults, children with reading disabilities, and ethnic groups; and cultural lacks in pockets of rural and urban poor.

How effectively does your library meet community needs?

The Montana Library Association has announced its annual conference, to be held in Missoula May 13-15, 1971. Conference headquarters will be at the Florence Hotel. Information about the conference will be mailed shortly, according to Mrs. Mabel Brewer, President.

Acting State Librarian David R. Hoffman met with the Yellowstone County Library Board, in Billings on March 3; the Board is charged with providing library service to rural residents of the County by contracting with an already established library. The State Library has committed funds toward the purchase of a bookmobile for use in the County, if a contract is negotiated with the Billings Public Library.

Institution Library Services Supervisor Richard C. Peel met on March 9 and 10 with staff of the Glendive and Miles City Public Libraries and the Pine Hills School and Eastmont Training Center to review library service at the two institutions and consider plans for service in the coming year.

Montana newspapers on March 11 carried stories of the 40th anniversary of library service to blind and handicapped readers from the Library of Congress. The Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Montana State Library is the agency within Montana which offers library service to handicapped persons. At this writing, more than 950 persons are registered as borrowers of talking books, books on tape, cassette books, and related equipment. The State Library provides staff, space, and operating expenses; only the reading materials themselves are provided by the Library of Congress.

G. Wesley Burnett joined the staff of the State Library on March 1 as Documents Librarian. Wes's appointment marks the first time that the Library has been able to assign a full staff position to this area of service.

Mrs. James Stradley has been named librarian of the Belgrade Public Library, replacing Mrs. George Van Delinder.

Montaniana:

Montana's historic markers, compiled and largely photographed by Edmund Christopherson. Text of signs mostly written by Bob Fletcher for the Montana Highway Department. Missoula, Earthquake Press, 1970. $4.95.

Beaverhead revisited, by Frank Eliel. A county history, discussing also the development of the railroad north from Corrine, Utah. Finefrock Publishing, 1969. $2.95. (Order from Lambert Eliel, 5805 Lawndale, Mesa, Arizona 85205.)

In the valley of the Little Big Horn, by Robert C. Kain. Story of the Battle, based on minutes of the court of inquiry. Newfane, Vermont, Author, 1969. $4.95.

Structural elements of the language of the Crow Indians of Montana, by Dorothea U. Kaschube. University of Colorado Press, 1967. $2.17.

The Montanans' fishing guide, by Richard L. Konizeski. Vol. 1, Montana waters west of the continental divide. Missoula, Mountain Press, 1970. $6.95.

Guarding the Carroll Trail; Camp Lewis, 1874-1875, by Michael J. Koury. Lewistown, Central Montana Historical Association, 1969. $3.11.

General George A. Custer; a lost trail and Gall saga; some interesting deductions regarding the Battle of the Little Big Horn, by Charles Kuhlman, Billings, Old Army Press, 1970. $2.00.

The Montana past; an anthology, compiled by Michael P. Malone. Chapters on Montana history by a number of distinguished historians. University of Montana Press, 1969. $6.95.

Montana bullwhacker, by C. C. Rouse. A fictionalized biography. Mountain View, California, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1969. $1.45.

In the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, by Gerald S. Snyder. Author and his family retraced route of Lewis and Clark, by car, towboat, canoe, raft, horse, and on foot. National Geographic Society, 1970. $4.25.

The field diary of General Alfred H. Terry; the Yellowstone expedition, 1876. Bellevue, Nebraska, Old Army Press, n.d. $2.00.

The Big Sky Country in poetry, by Glen Wilcock. Narrative poem of 108 stanzas. Cowley, Wyoming, Author, 1969. $1.25.

Through the courtesy of Senator Lee Metcalf, the State Library has a number of bound copies of the speeches which were given on the dedication of the Charles M. Russell statue in the U.S. Capitol Building. Montana libraries wishing copies of these speeches may request them from the State Library.

David R. Hoffman
Acting State Librarian

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